WA Commingled Improvements Project: Southwest Region Workgroup

June 23, 2009, Ecology HQ, 1:00 - 4:30

Notes

Focus on ONP & OCC in the Commingled System

Responses to Questions for ONP and OCC:

Local Governments and Collectors

- What is the specific messaging for preparation?
  Clean , dry, flat 2x3, no plastic bags, fit in the cart, no food contaminated, no Styrofoam, focus on prohibitives
- Special/extra messaging? *No*
- Collected the same as other materials? *Yes, Fibers separate, OCC optional outside of can (3 jurisdictions reported this option)*
- Does it provide revenue for your program or is it only a cost? *[Note: Use Yellow Sheet Index stats for market worth]*
- Percent of total materials collected in curbside program? Renton?: *45% ONP, 25% OCC* ; *Thurston: 43% ONP, 13% OCC; Tacoma: 35% ONP, 19% OCC* (Need data from: Olympia, Lewis, Pierce, Shelton)

Processors

- Percent of total incoming? *ONP/MWP - 50% OCC -20%; ONP - 12-20% OCC - 8-10%*
- Quality of incoming? *Pretty good, great (no glass)*
- Problems in processing? Would like larger OCC sizes; small paper size is a problem
- Areas that could be improved from MRF perspective? *No response*
- Percent of residual? *No response*
- Rate the market: Strong, medium, weak for local and export? *Strong both (L&E)*
- High value commodity? *Yes - both, browns higher*
- Easy to move? *Yes - both*
- Percent of total revenue? *No response*
- Percent of total cost? *No response*

Manufacturers

- Prohibitives? *Biggest issue is glass in ONP. Plastics in OCC.*
- Outhrows? *50-60% is small colored OCC, brown fiber for ONP; wax and stickies, fiberboard for OCC*
- Yield loss? *Over 16% for ONP, 15% for OCC*
- Capacity/ Need to use more? *Customer driven, some strength properties. Yes, 50% grade normal, used 72%; Can use 100% (phonebooks), but cut consumption in half. Can use 30% - 100% (OCC). Customer, product needs, customer want = determines recycled content.*
- Problems with your equipment? *ONP: High (glass); OCC: Enough volume to move through plant*
- Value in using vs. other virgin feedstock? *More energy to use raw, but doesn't factor in yield loss costs due to contamination*
- Final product? *ONP: Phone books, news, bag grades; OCC: liner medium, Double-lined kraft (DLK), boxes, and bag grades*
- Percent of incoming from SW region*: ONP: 73% singlestream of which 40% is NW (NORPAC)*; 75% (SP mill)
- Problem areas: *Drive to use pre-consumer #9, double-lined kraft (DLK), 10-20% contamination from suppliers*

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Market notes

Foreign markets that were formally importers of US OCC and ONP are now either exporters or self-sustaining (Japan huge net exporter, Mexico almost entirely internally supported, China's inspection standards are getting stricter as they become more domestically sustained).

Reporting Method

I will generate a template report sample by the end of July to see if it meets the needs of the group as a way of compiling /reporting the information gathered at the commodity–focused meetings to give a snap shot of materials (and issues) collected, processed and used in our region from the commingled residential recycling system.

Meeting Schedule with Topic

Plastics – July 20 1:00 - 4:30

Metals – August (TBD - 4th week)

Glass – September (TBD - 4th week)

MWP *(including shred)* – October (TBD - 3rd or 4th week)